

STATEMENT

Number of pending applications for grant of telephone connection, as on 31.10.1996, State-wise.

S.No.	State	Waiting List of Telephone connections
1.	Andhra Pradesh	215625
2.	Assam	27335
3.	Bihar	57435
4.	Gujarat (Including Dadar, Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli)	284644
5.	Haryana	97297
6.	Himachal Pradesh	46588
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	28844
8.	Karnataka	230318
9.	Kerala (Including Lakshadweep U.T.)	590330
10.	Madhya Pradesh	62223
11.	Maharashtra (Including Goa)	388276
12.	North East (Including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	14920
13.	Orissa	23057
14.	Punjab (Including Chandigarh U.T.)	228129
15.	Rajasthan	188753
16.	Tamil Nadu (Including Pondicherry U.T.)	442902
17.	Uttar Pradesh	178104
18.	West Bengal (Including Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands)	156759
19.	Delhi	73861

Inclusion of Vidarbha Region News at Mumbai Doordarshan

1093 SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether news of Vidarbha region is not included in the regional news bulletin telecast from Mumbai everyday.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to ensure sufficient coverage for this region.

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to set up production studio and upgrade the supporting facilities at Doordarshan centre Nagpur; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). News items relating to Vidarbha region are included in the regional news bulletins telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Mumbai depending on their news value and news worthiness within the existing infrastructural facilities.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The existing programme generating facility at Nagpur is being upgraded to a 150 Sc. Mts. Studio set up along with associated technical and office areas. The project is expected to be completed during 1997.

Telecom Projects

1094 SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made under major telecom projects in major cities awarded in favour of private companies and details on financial and time stipulations and actual progress made vis-a-vis-targets.

(b) whether the telcom projects/policies have received a set-back because of reported scams in award of telecommunication projects;

(c) if so, the steps taken to formulate transparent policies and streamline procedure in implementation of privatisation programme envisaged in communication sector.

(d) steps taken/proposed to make financing of basic phone ventures attractive for financial institutions and details of policy changes finalised/under consideration.

(e) whether Artheya Committee has submitted its report on restructuring of communication sector, and

(f) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No major telecom project has been awarded to private companies. However licences for operation of Value Added Services have been awarded. No licence for Basic Telephone Service has been awarded so far.

(b) No Sir, there has been no set-back to telecom projects/policies

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) The Government is considering to make suitable provision in the Licence Agreement of Basic Telephone Services for enabling the use of Licence for the limited purpose of securitisation of the debt obtained by the perspective licences from the Financial Institutions so

as to facilitate financing of their project for provision of Basic telephone Service in their respective allocated Telecom Circles.

(e) The Athreya Committee did not make unanimous recommendations. The Committee recognised the need for separating the "policy and regulation" tier from the "operations" tier in any future structure but was divided on the form of future organisation of the Department of Telecommunications.

(f) The recommendations in respect of corporatisation were not pursued in view of the financial implications involved and reservations expressed by telecom staff as also in the context of the National Telecom Policy, 1994, envisaging duopoly in basic services which would be provided by a Government and a private operator in each circle.

[Translation]

Phone Mechanic Cadre Post

1095. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have created a new cadre of Phone Mechanic in DoT, particularly in MTNL, Delhi;

(b) whether training for the post has been given to employees;

(c) if so, the number thereof and amount spent thereon, circle-wise;

(d) whether all the trained employees have posted as per their posts

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which their services are likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A cadre of Phone Mechanic has been created in DoT including MTNL, Delhi.

(b) The training is under progress.

(c) Training for the cadre of Phone Mechanic is imparted in Departmental Training Centres along with other cadres. No separate budget allocation is made for individual cadres. The number of employees trained Circle-wise is indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) Due to non-availability of required number of posts.

(g) This depends upon the workload. No definite timeframe can be given.

STATEMENT

Status of Phone Mechanic - Training

S.No.	Circle	No. of officials to be trained	No. of officials trained
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	35	31
2.	Andhra Pradesh	9365	3900
3.	Assam	1899	995
4.	Bihar	1429	1397
5.	Haryana	1255	930
6.	Himachal Pradesh	772	640
7.	Gujarat	5210	3057
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	900	864
9.	Karnataka	4580	2525
10.	Kerala	8547	743
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1650	1252
12.	Maharashtra	6657	2953
13.	North-East Region	501	401
14.	Orissa	2185	965
15.	Punjab	1928	1729
16.	Rajasthan	2085	1476
17.	Tamil Nadu	8954	3058
18.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	4673	3781
19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	3158	2302
20.	West Bengal	4451	1930
21.	MTNL Mumbai	4731	1986
22.	MTNL New Delhi	2970	1617
23.	Calcutta Telephones	3235	2182
24.	Chennai Telephones	3669	1097

[English]

New Exchanges

1096. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open new telephone exchanges during 1997-98, and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The relevant information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.